ABSTRACT

Water contained in cathode effluent from a cathode (1B) of the fuel cell power plant is condensed by a condenser (8) and recovered to a water tank (10). Water in the water tank (10) is supplied from a pump (17) to a humidifier (4) which humidifies hydrogen-rich gas supplied to an anode (1A) via a water passage (9B). When the power plant stops operating, a controller (30) first recovers water in the water passage (9B) to the water tank (10). Also, the freezing probability of the water passage (9B) is determined from the temperature detected by an outside air temperature sensor (31), and a wait time is set according to the freezing probability. By opening a drain valve (15) and draining residual water in the water passage (9B) after the wait time has elapsed, freezing of the water passage (9B) can be prevented with a minimum water drainage amount.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
15 January 2004 (15.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/006369 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: H01M 8/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/JP2003/007258

(22) International Filing Date: 9 June 2003 (09.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2002-197117 5 July 2002 (05.07.2002) JP

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(81) Designated States *(national)*: CN, KR, US.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

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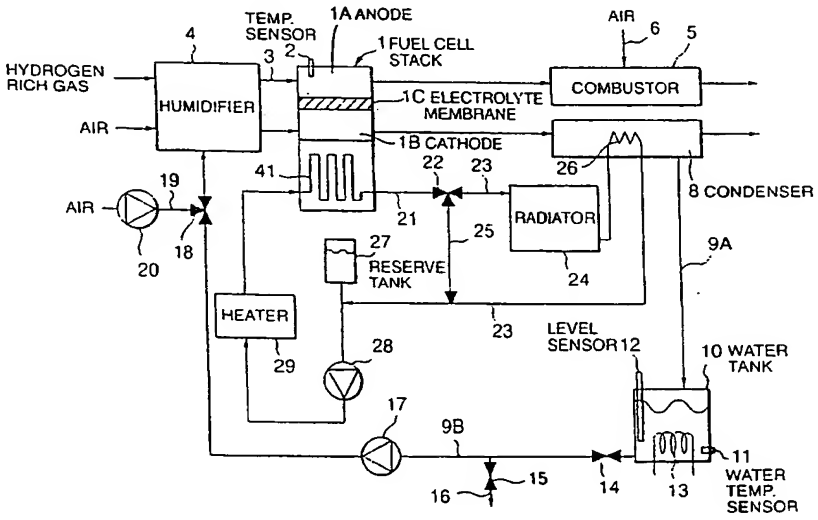
(54) Title: FUEL CELL POWER PLANT



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